

the coast of India, in the middle of the Indian Ocean. The island is 40 miles around and encompasses an area of 6,720 acres, most of it dominated by a large lagoon. The land mass is actually very small. It is home to a joint British-United States Naval Support Facility, and while there are only a small handful of British Royal Navy personnel on the island, there is a larger, tight-knit team of American Air Force, Navy, and Army personnel on the island. These men and women serving on Diego Garcia are supporting B-52 bombing missions and other operations over Afghanistan. Many of them are from the 2nd Bomb Wing and the 917th Wing. Both units call Barksdale Air Force Base in Louisiana their home.

As a Nation, we provide members of our armed forces with a variety of benefits, all of them deserve. They receive hardship duty pay of \$150 per month for serving in austere regions of the World. They get imminent danger pay of \$150 per month as compensation for being in physical danger. One of the most generous benefits for those serving in the war on terrorism is the combat zone tax exclusion. Members of the armed services do not pay Federal tax on compensation they for any month of service inside a combat one. They only have to serve on day in the combat zone to get this benefit. The exclusion only applies to personnel who receive imminent danger pay.

On Diego Garcia, the pilots and flight crews who fly the missions over Afghanistan are eligible for the income tax exclusion because they receive imminent danger pay. But the men and women who load the bombers, fuel them, and maintain them are not eligible because they do not enter the combat zone. My office was contacted by the officers who fly the bombing missions about this discrepancy. They asked me to help out their support crews, a gesture of selflessness that I want to honor.

I recognize that the support crews may not receive imminent danger pay, but their situation is not too different from Naval personnel performing the same tasks on ships in the Arabian Sea. Naval support crews receive imminent danger pay and are eligible for the tax exclusion, but they do not enter Afghanistan.

Diego Garcia is a beautiful place, but it is a long way from home. The least we could do is treat everyone who has served on the island the same. That is what my bill will do.

My second bill will correct an omission in the Tax Reform Act of 1986. That Act contained a provision consolidating the laws regarding the tax treatment of certain military benefits. The Conference Report to that Act contains a long list of benefits to be excluded from gross income of military personnel. According to the report, this list was to be exhaustive. The problem is that child care benefits are not on that list.

I do not know if this omission was intentional. Perhaps at that time, child

care benefits were relatively unknown in the military. The Conference Report gives the Treasury Secretary the authority to expand the list of eligible benefits, but so far the Secretary has not provided any guidance to the Department of Defense as to how these benefits should be treated for tax purposes. While military families are not currently being taxed for child care benefits, the Department of Defense has indicated that it would like Congress to clarify that child care benefits are not subject to tax. My bill will give our military families and the Department of Defense a greater degree of certainty.

Throughout our history, in time of war we have worked to make sure that our armed forces have everything they need and we have spared no expense in meeting that need. But the men and women on the ground often have families back at home. We should make sure that we support them as well. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

STATEMENTS ON SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 307—RE-AFFIRMING SUPPORT OF THE CONVENTION ON THE PREVENTION AND PUNISHMENT OF THE CRIME OF GENOCIDE AND ANTICIPATING THE COMMEMORATION OF THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ENACTMENT OF THE GENOCIDE CONVENTION IMPLEMENTATION ACT OF 1987 (THE PROXIMITY ACT) ON NOVEMBER 4, 2003

Mr. TORRICELLI submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 307

Whereas, in 1948, in the shadow of the Holocaust, the international community responded to Nazi Germany's methodically orchestrated acts of genocide by approving the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide;

Whereas the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide confirms that genocide is a crime under international law, defines genocide as certain acts committed with intent to destroy a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, and provides that parties to the Convention undertake to enact domestic legislation to provide effective penalties for persons who are guilty of genocide;

Whereas the United States, under President Harry Truman, stood as the first nation to sign the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide;

Whereas the United States Senate ratified the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide on February 19, 1986;

Whereas the Genocide Convention Implementation Act of 1987 (the Proxmire Act) (Public Law 100-606), signed into law by President Ronald Reagan on November 4, 1988, amended the United States Code (18 U.S.C. 1091) to criminalize genocide under the United States law;

Whereas the enactment of the Genocide Convention Implementation Act marked a

principled stand by the United States against the crime of genocide and an important step toward ensuring that the lessons of the Holocaust, the Armenian Genocide, the genocides in Cambodia and Rwanda, among others, will be used to help prevent future genocides;

Whereas, despite the international community's consensus against genocide, as demonstrated by the fact that 133 nations are party to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and through other instruments and actions, denial of past instances of genocide continues and many thousands of innocent people continue to be victims of genocide; and

Whereas November 4, 2003 is the 15th anniversary of the enactment of the Genocide Convention Implementation Act of 1987 (the Proxmire Act): Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) reaffirms its support of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide;

(2) anticipates the commemoration of the 15th anniversary of the enactment of the Genocide Convention Implementation Act of 1987 (the Proxmire Act) on November 4, 2003; and

(3) encourages the people and Government of the United States to rededicate themselves to the cause of bringing an end to the crime of genocide.

SENATE RESOLUTION 308—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING THE "ONCE-A-DAY" PROGRAM TO PROMOTE LOCAL FARM PRODUCTS

Mrs. CLINTON submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry:

S. RES. 308

Whereas agriculture is a major industry in the United States, contributing \$82,000,000,000 to the gross domestic product of the United States in 2000;

Whereas the farmers in every State produce a wide variety of local foods;

Whereas locally-grown, seasonal foods are fresh and wholesome, with superior taste and nutrition;

Whereas eating fresh foods in season is vital to a healthy diet, promotes health, and supports an active lifestyle;

Whereas reduced time from field to table allows farmers to harvest fully-ripened produce;

Whereas this flavorful produce can be prepared with less fat, sugar, and salt;

Whereas during the months of August, September, and October there is a tremendous selection of fresh, locally-grown produce;

Whereas local farms provide jobs, attract tourists, and recirculate dollars into the local economy of our Nation;

Whereas local produce can be found at many locations such as farmers' markets, community-supported agriculture farms, farm stands, local stores, and restaurants;

Whereas if citizens of the United States would eat 1 item of local produce each day, every dollar spent on the produce would support independent family farms that contribute to the economic health of the United States; and

Whereas Dutchess County, New York, has already begun a "Once-a-Day" program to encourage local residents to buy local produce in support of their local farmers and their own health: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) all Americans are encouraged to buy local farm products; and

(2) anyone selling local agricultural products is encouraged to promote the products as "Once-a-Day" to support the local economy and the health of our Nation.

SENATE RESOLUTION 309—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA SHOULD BE CONGRATULATED ON THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS RECOGNITION BY THE UNITED STATES

Mr. BIDEN (for himself, Mr. MCCAIN, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 309

Whereas the United States reaffirms its support for the sovereignty, legal continuity, and territorial integrity of Bosnia and Herzegovina within its internationally recognized borders and also reaffirms its support for the equality of the three constituent peoples and others in Bosnia and Herzegovina in a united multiethnic country, according to the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina;

Whereas, during the 10 years since its recognition, Bosnia and Herzegovina has made significant progress in overcoming the legacy of the internecine conflict of 1992–1995 instigated by ultranationalist forces hostile to a multiethnic society, and has persevered in building a multiethnic democracy based on the rule of law, respect for human rights, and a free market economy, as shown by the results of the elections held in November 2000;

Whereas most citizens and the national authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina share the democratic values of the international community and feel the responsibility to uphold them;

Whereas the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina is committed to international security and democratic stability and in that spirit has begun the process of qualifying for membership in the Partnership for Peace; and

Whereas, after the attacks of September 11, 2001 on the United States, Bosnia and Herzegovina, as a reliable friend of the United States, immediately positioned itself within the anti-terrorism coalition of nations, sharing the common interests and values of the free and democratic world: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends Bosnia and Herzegovina for the significant progress it has made during the past decade on the implementation of the Dayton Peace Agreement and on the implementation of the Constituent Peoples' Decision of the Constitutional Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina;

(2) applauds the democratic orientation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and urges the further strengthening by its government and people of respect for human rights, of the rule of law, and of its free market economy;

(3) urges Bosnia and Herzegovina as rapidly as possible to make fully operational all national institutions and state-level governmental bodies mandated by the Dayton Peace Agreement;

(4) welcomes and supports the aspiration of Bosnia and Herzegovina to become a member of the Partnership for Peace and, pursuant thereto, underscores the importance of creating a joint military command as soon as possible;

(5) urges the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina to accelerate the return of refugees and displaced persons and to intensify its cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia at The Hague, in particular with regard to surrendering to the Court individuals indicted for war crimes;

(6) reaffirms the importance for the future of Bosnia and Herzegovina of that country's participation in the European integration process and, in that context, welcomes the notable improvement in mutual cooperation among the successor states of the former Yugoslavia and the strengthening of cooperation within the region as a whole, developments which are essential for long-lasting peace and stability in Southeastern Europe; and

(7) recognizes the important role of the Bosnian-Herzegovinian-American community in the further improving of bilateral relations between the United States and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I rise today to submit a Resolution congratulating Bosnia and Herzegovina on the tenth anniversary of its recognition by the United States.

During the decade since its recognition, Bosnia and Herzegovina has made significant progress in overcoming the legacy of the bloody conflict of 1992–95, which was instigated by ultra-nationalist forces and claimed more than two hundred thousand lives and made millions more homeless.

The NATO-led peacekeeping force, known originally as IFOR, now as SFOR, has provided the security umbrella that has allowed the slow, difficult process of reconciliation and democracy-building to take place.

The international community under the direction of a resident High Representative, the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the European Union, and many individual countries have joined the United States in providing and delivering economic and technical assistance to the citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Last year for the first time democratic, non-nationalist parties gained control of the national and Federation governments, and the government of the Republika Srpska is considerably more democratic than it was under the infamous Radovan Karadzic.

Elections will be held this coming October, which will determine whether the country will continue on a democratic, multi-ethnic, and free market path. Obviously, it is in the interest of the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bosniaks, Serbs, Croats, and others, that it do so. Equally obviously, it is in the interest of the United States that Bosnia and Herzegovina become a normal, peaceful, democratic country.

My Resolution commends Bosnia and Herzegovina for the progress it has made and urges it to take several steps to continue the process. They include: further strengthening of respect for human rights, of the rule of law, and of its free market economy; as rapidly as possible making fully operational all national institutions and state-level governmental bodies mandated by the

Dayton Peace Agreement; creating a joint military command as soon as possible; accelerating the return of refugees and displaced persons; and intensifying its cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia at The Hague, in particular surrendering to the Court individuals indicted for war crimes.

The stability of the Balkans is essential for European stability. And stability in Europe is of fundamental importance to the United States of America. A peaceful, democratic, multi-ethnic Bosnia and Herzegovina can be an important element in the new Balkans.

I urge my colleagues to vote for this Resolution, which makes clear our support for just such a Bosnia and Herzegovina.

SENATE RESOLUTION 310—HONORING JUSTIN W. DART, JR., AS A CHAMPION OF THE RIGHTS OF INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

Mr. HARKIN (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. HATCH, and Mr. GREGG) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 310

Whereas Justin W. Dart, Jr. was born in Chicago, Illinois in 1930;

Whereas Justin Dart, Jr. has been recognized as a pioneer and leader in the disability rights movement;

Whereas Justin Dart, Jr. operated successful businesses in the United States and Japan;

Whereas 5 Presidents, 5 Governors, and Congress have seen fit to appoint Justin Dart, Jr. to leadership positions within the area of disability policy, including Vice Chairman of the National Council on Disability, Commissioner of the Rehabilitation Services Administration, Chairperson of the President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities, and Chairperson of the Congressional Task Force on the Rights and Empowerment of Americans with Disabilities;

Whereas Justin Dart, Jr. was a civil rights activist for individuals with disabilities since he was stricken with polio in 1948 and played a leadership role in numerous civil rights marches across the country;

Whereas Justin Dart, Jr. worked tirelessly to secure passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, which was signed into law by President Bush, and is often recognized as a major driving force behind the disability rights movement and that landmark legislation;

Whereas on January 15, 1998, President Clinton awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, our Nation's highest civilian award, to Justin Dart, Jr.

Whereas Justin Dart, Jr. has left a powerful legacy as a civil rights advocate and his actions have benefited the people of the United States;

Whereas Justin Dart, Jr. is not only remembered for his advocacy efforts on behalf of individuals with disabilities, but also for his energetic spirit and for the formal and informal independent living skills programs for individuals with disabilities that he supported; and

Whereas Justin Dart, Jr. passed away at his home on June 22, 2002, and is survived by his wife, Yoshiko Dart, 5 daughters, 11 grandchildren, and 2 great-grandchildren: Now, therefore, be it